

INCOMING TELEGRAM

9 United States  
Information Agency825  
720a

06926

CONFIDENTIAL

SD411

25X1

Classification

ACTION  
IAF

RR RUEHCR RUEHIA RUEKDA

INFO:

DE RUMJIR 977AN25/0145Z

I/S

IRS

IOP/G

IOP/I

IOP

IBS

IPS

IGC

R 250130Z ZEA

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC

INFO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

RUEKDA/DOD

STATE  
CIA  
NSA  
OSD

STATE GRNC

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACTION USIA TOUSI 518 INFO DEP  
DOD UNN FROM SAIGON JAN 25, 9 AM

FOR IOP/IBS/IAF

DEPT FOR GREENFIELD AND DOD FOR SYLVESTER

IF PREDICTIONS IN NEWS COVERAGE ACCURATE, WE CAN ANTICIPATE  
SOME SORT OF SENATE DEBATE ON VIETNAM SITUATION IN NEAR FUTURE.  
EXCEPT FOR VOA, COVERAGE OF THIS DEBATE FOR VIETNAM AUDIENCES  
WILL BE LARGELY DEPENDENT ON WIRE SERVICE COPY WHICH WILL  
UNDOUBTEDLY TEND TO EMPHASIZE MORE EXTREME STATEMENTS FROM  
WHATEVER SOURCE. WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER IMPACT OF ANY  
CFN 518 25 9 VOA

State Department review completed

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS  
COPY IS PROHIBITED  
UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 977A C O N F I D E N T I A L

POSSIBLE STATEMENTS ADVOCATING WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM OR BOMBING OF NORTH ON VIETNAMESE PUBLIC. THERE IS NOT TOO MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPER USE OF WIRE SERVICE COPY ALTHOUGH WE WILL SEEK TO WORK WITH SEMI-OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS ON MATERIAL WHICH IS ISSUED TO LOCAL PRESS FOR PUBLICATION. ALSO ASSUME THAT VOA WILL PROVIDE ITS USUAL BALANCED COVERAGE.

REMAINING PROBLEM IS AFRS WHICH IS ALSO DEPENDENT ON WIRE SERVICE COPY AND HAS LARGE VIETNAMESE EAVESDROPPING AUDIENCE. IN ABSENCE OF OTHER SOURCES, AFRS WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BASE ITS BROADCASTS ON WIRE SERVICE STORIES. NORMAL WIRELESS FILE TRANSMISSIONS ARE TOO INFREQUENT TO PROVIDE RUNNING COVERAGE WHICH AFRS NEEDS IF IT IS TO HAVE SUBSTITUTE FOR WIRE SERVICES. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO SET UP SPECIAL RUNNING TRANSMISSION OF BRIEF BALANCED COVERAGE DURING PERIOD OF INTENSE SENATE DEBATE WHICH WE COULD PASS ON TO AFRS FOR BROADCAST? COVERAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED FROM EARLY MORNING TO MIDNIGHT SAIGON TIME. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO OUR OVER-ALL INFORMATION EFFORT IN THIS COUNTRY.

RECOGNIZE POSSIBLE DOMESTIC PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THIS PROCEDURE IF IT RECEIVES ATTENTION AND FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD PROPOSE

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 977A C O N F I D E N T I A L

TO UNDERTAKE THIS PROVISION OF COVERAGE FOR AFRS ON INFORMAL  
BASIS ONLY. WE ARE OF COURSE NOT SUGGESTING CENSORSHIP OF  
SENATE DEBATE IN ANY WAY BUT ARE SEEKING INSTEAD BALANCED  
COVERAGE WHICH WILL HELP PUT DEBATE IN PERSPECTIVE. ADVISE.

ZORTHIAN

BT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

5/732